BG Rail Level Platform at Aralvaimozhi in Trivandram Division

2734. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken in raising of BG rail level platform for a length of 244M. at ARALVAIMOZHI in Trivandram Division;

(b) if so, by when it will be completed; and

(c) whether any work has been started or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Work for raising of platform to high level has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh. Execution of the work is being taken up, and is expected to be completed by December, 1999.

Sale of impure mineral water bottles at the main stations in Delhi

2735. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that impure mineral water bottles are being sold at the main stations in Delhi and that there have been complaints about selling of tap water in unsealed plastic bottles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to check this illegal trade of selling impure water at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Sale of only authorised and short-listed brands of mineral water is permitted through railway outlets. Checks conducted by Northern Railway reveal that some unscrupulous elements/rag pickers indulge in recycling of mineral water bottles. Regular checks are undertaken by Northern Railway to prevent this menace. Efforts are also made for creating awareness amongst the passengers to crush used bottlles.

Setting up more Railway Zonal Offices in the Country

2736. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Minister in the previous Government had announced to set up more Railway Zonal offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move for setting up such offices in Bihar has been formulated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The previous Government has decided to set up six new Zonal Railways with headquarters at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur.

(c) and (d) One Zonal Railway office in Bihar with headquarters at Hajipur known as East Central Railway is being set up.

Diversions in the Route of Kerala Mangala Express

2737. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to stop plying of the Kerala-Mangala Express through Palghat Junction as per newspaper reports;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is already a heavy rush of passengers embarking at Palghat and in case of diversion of the said train, it would cause a great deal of inconvenience to them; and